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6-29-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Shuichi NAGATO et al.

Serial No. 09/530,703

Filed June 21, 2000



Docket No. 2000_0574A

Group Art Unit 3749

FLUIDIZED-BED GASIFICATION AND
COMBUSTION FURNACE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Kindly amend the above-identified application as follows.

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PTC 1700 MAIL ROOM

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40. (New) A fluidized-bed gasification and combustion furnace, characterized in that:
a fluidized-bed furnace is divided by a partition wall into a gasification furnace and a combustion furnace;

a revolving flow of a fluidized medium in which an intense fluidizing region of the fluidized medium is formed so as to have a substantially high fluidizing velocity in the fluidized-bed in a certain region, thus generating an upward flow of the fluidized medium, and a weak fluidizing region of the fluidized medium is formed so as to have a substantially low fluidizing velocity in the fluidized-bed in another region, thus generating a descending flow of the fluidized medium, is formed in at least one of said gasification furnace and said combustion furnace; and

a circulating flow of the fluidized medium is formed between said gasification furnace and said combustion furnace.

41. (New) A fluidized-bed gasification and combustion furnace, characterized in that: